U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire

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MEDIA RELEASE
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LACONIA MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL "CRACK" COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES

Re: United States v. Michael NOUCAS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed, announced that **Michael NOUCAS**, date of birth 9/23/83, of Laconia, NH, was convicted on October 28, 2003 on crack cocaine distribution charges.

According to the affidavit accompanying a federal criminal complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Muirhead, Noucas was arrested by the N.H Drug Task Force after selling crack cocaine to a cooperating informant on two occasions during January, 2003.

Noucas entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiCLerico, Jr. to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute "crack" cocaine. Judge DiClerico released NOUCAS to the supervision of the U.S. Department of Probation pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for January 29, 2004. He faces a potential maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

On October 6, 2003, Noucas' crack cocaine supplier, Raymond Frederickson of Gilford, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute over 50 grams of "crack" cocaine. Judge Barbadoro detained FREDERICKSEN without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for January 5, 2004. He faces a potential maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and a minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "My office is committed not only to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire's other larger cities, but also those importing illegal drugs into smaller communities like those in the Lakes Region. Attorney General Heed's Drug Task Force conducted a thorough and aggressive investigation in this case, and

these convictions stand as a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our communities and their residents."

The conviction resulted from an investigation by the N.H. Drug Task Force's "Northern Team". The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDETF").